
Washington

*Help America Vote Act
(HAVA) Complaint
Process Guide*

Provided by

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State Guide to HAVA & Election Complaint Process

This is a guide to your state's laws relating to the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and other election related complaints.

The statutes/codes cited in this guide may not be the most recent version. States may have more current or accurate information. We make no warranties or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in the individual state guides or the information linked to on the state site.

This guide was last updated on 03/11/2024.

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What is the Help America Vote Act (HAVA)?

[Link to HAVA Statute](#)

[Link to Election Assistance Commission](#)

According to the EAC.gov website:

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 was passed by the United States Congress to make sweeping reforms to the nation's voting process. HAVA addresses improvements to voting systems and voter access that were identified following the 2000 election. HAVA mandates that EAC test and certify voting equipment, maintain the National Voter Registration form and administer a national clearinghouse on elections that includes shared practices, information for voters and other resources to improve elections.

HAVA creates new mandatory minimum standards for states to follow in several key areas of election administration. The law provides funding to help states meet these new standards, replace voting systems and improve election administration. HAVA also established the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to assist the states regarding HAVA compliance and to distribute HAVA funds to the states. EAC is also charged with creating voting system guidelines and operating the federal government's first voting system certification program. EAC is also responsible for maintaining the National Voter Registration form, conducting research, and administering a national clearinghouse on elections that includes shared practices, information for voters and other resources to improve elections. HAVA requires that the states implement the following new programs and procedures:

- Provisional Voting
- Voting Information
- Updated and Upgraded Voting Equipment
- Statewide Voter Registration Databases
- Voter Identification Procedures
- Administrative Complaint Procedures

How do I file a HAVA complaint?

[Link to Form](#)

Any person who believes that a violation of Title III of the federal Help America Vote Act has occurred, is occurring, or is about to occur may file a complaint with the Office of the Secretary of State. Title III of the Help America Vote Act includes:

- Standards and requirements for voting equipment;
- Requirements to offer provisional voting;
- Requirements for posting voting information on election day;
- Requirements for a statewide voter registration system; and
- Requirements for voters who register by mail

If your complaint falls under one of the above categories, you may use this form to file a complaint with the Office of the Secretary of State. A letter containing the same information is also acceptable. All complaints must be notarized and filed with the Office of the Secretary of State no later than 30 days after certification of the election.

How do I file a non-HAVA election complaint?

[Link to Statutes](#)

Concerns about the election process may be directed to [County Election Offices](#) or the [Secretary of State office](#).

If you believe an election crime has been committed, please file a report with law enforcement.

Who can I contact regarding an election related complaint?

Secretary of State, Elections Division	
Physical Address:	416 Sid Snyder Ave SW Olympia, WA 98501
Mailing Address:	Secretary of State, Elections Division P.O. Box 40229 Olympia, WA 98504-0229
Phone Number:	360-902-4180
Fax Number:	360-664-4619
E-mail:	elections@sos.wa.gov
Email Webform:	Contact Us Webform

Washington State, Office of the Attorney General	
Physical Address:	1125 Washington Street SE Olympia, Washington 98504-0100
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 40100 Olympia, WA 98504-0100
Phone Number:	360-753-6200
Contact Webform:	https://fortress.wa.gov/atg/formhandler/ago/ContactForm.aspx
County Prosecuting Attorneys:	https://waprosecutors.org/prosecutordirectory/